

Giant cable companies should not be permitted to grow larger. Further consolidation in the cable industry is a clear violation of horizontal ownership rules that must be re-established to serve the public interest.

The concentration of power and control over distribution of media is a growing problem in this country. Though we have more channels available than ever before, they are under the operation of a handful of giant corporations.

If Comcast and Time Warner are allowed to merge with Adelphia, the two companies will control nearly 50 percent of the national market. This level of concentration in the cable industry will lead to higher consumer rates and lower quality service.

Since Comcast took over Cable Service here in Concord, N.H., I have been most dissatisfied !!

Since passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the "deregulation" of cable, consumers have seen their rates jump an average of 59 percent — with some areas experiencing even more dramatic increases.

We are required to buy channels we don't want or need because the cable operators bundle them together. The quality of customer service often reflects the fact that cable television is not a competitive market.

Meanwhile, the cost of cable modem service remains out of reach for many households, holding constant for years and selectively underserving rural and low-income Americans. The American people are watching the digital divide widen even as the need for access to high-speed networks increases.

Each and every year since the takeover by Comcast I have seen my monthly rates jump by 4 , 5 and even 6 times the annual rate of Inflation !!

I spent an entire year trying to get restored a station for which I was already paying !! It took forever , they were most unco-operative and unresponsive !! My daily nagging finally wore them down !!

I should not have to don armour and heavy gauntlets and join them in the Lists to get that for which I was already OVERPAYING !!!!!

This year they took away Trio , an excellent station which did in part serve the under-served Gay and Lesbian Community , long over - due and only fair , it was late at night when children should be in bed and asleep !! I saw no harm in that whatsoever !!

Furthermore , I was paying for the damned thing !! They had no right taking it away from me !!

Back in the 70\'s and 80\'s I never could rely upon getting out of the office early !! As a result I missed many excellent Mini - Series either in whole or in part !!

One of those I missed in part was the critically - acclaimed \'I Claudius\' featuring that incredible talent - Derek Jacobi !! I spent years looking for this on VHS and hoping that someone would finally re-air this incomparable series !!

Trio finally did a long over - due re-broadcast !! it was wonderful !! The acting was superb !! It was historically accurate !! The sets and costumes were inspired !! The Directing was first - rate !! The camera work was brilliant !! It was well worth the wait !!

Now Trio is gone forever !! I fail to see what \'I Claudius\' had to do with some Gay and Lesbian Agenda !! The logic escapes me and don\'t they deserve being served as well !!

Emperor Claudius was into BOOKS and SCROLLS not Men and Boys !! The Empress Messalina , however , was most definitely into Men , no man still breathing within the confines of Rome could escape her relentless pursuit !!

Neither Claudius nor Mesalina had a Gay or Lesbian Agenda , and what if they did , I am well over 21 !!!!! I am also now without Trio which also recently aired the incredible \'Brideshead Revisted\' , if Bill Buckley , Jr. can live with that tale , so can I , with Bill Buckley , Jr. I am in the most excellent of company !!

Cable companies have become less responsive to the needs and requirements of communities. The quality of public accountability in local

franchise agreements has declined, as big companies leverage their power to squeeze local governments.

In many communities, the truly independent sources of local news, information and culture come from the public channels produced at the local access centers. Unfortunately, local channels lack the resources to produce the programming that citizens want and need.

The last thing we need is to reward the anti-competitive actions of cable giants by permitting greater consolidation in ownership, reducing competition, and encouraging more of the same.

Regretably , I do not watch the Local Access Channels !! Their production values are virtually non - existent !! As opposed to the funding ;eve;ls and technical assistance they are supposed to receive from Comcast , I suspect that they receive a mere pittance instead !! In the meantime I am being Raped , Pillaged and Plundered for their over - priced service !!

Perhaps you could suggest that they start using a brand name lubricant, that might not hurt quite so much !!